

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 217

By Naifeh

A RESOLUTION to congratulate the Covington High School
Chargers on winning the 2006 TSSAA Class AA
State Baseball Championship.

WHEREAS, baseball has long been an important sport in the community of Covington, Tennessee; the Covington High School Baseball Team has contributed much to the enjoyment of the local citizens as they have watched their team playing America's pastime; and

WHEREAS, the Covington High School Chargers claimed the 2006 TSSAA Class AA State Baseball Championship in Murfreesboro by beating arch rival University School of Jackson 9-1; it was the Chargers' first state championship in baseball since 1999 and its third appearance in the title game since 2000; and

WHEREAS, the acumen and dedication of Head Coach Geno Miller and Assistant Coaches John Katrosh, Mark McClain, and David Twisdale, are without peer; the support of Principal Tom Barton, Athletic Director Ned Lewis, and Voice of the Chargers Steve Holt, as well as the loyal parents and fans, provides positive reinforcement to the players and teaches them valuable lessons of life, sportsmanship, and fair play; and

WHEREAS, Covington High School has long been a leader in high school athletics and the baseball team admirably adds to the school's luster with their sport; and

WHEREAS, the praiseworthy 2006 Charger Roster includes: Seniors, Gunter Delashmit, Joshua Posey, Tyler Mathis, Gabe Rivers, Jared Burdette, Dustin Dover, Roby Anderson, Cody Faulk, and Joe Freeman; Juniors, W.T. Bailey, Evan Gangaware, John David Mason, Jake Winberry, Brandon Elzie, and Drew Moss; Sophomore, Lee Eaves; and Freshmen, Drew Hawkins, Skylar Hall, Corey Hayes, Hunter Coulston, Hunter Marbry, Russell Hardwick, Bennett Kinningham, Justin Gurley, Logan Wall, and Will Hayden; and

WHEREAS, despite an early season record of 5-7, the Covington Chargers refused to give up as they persevered against staggering odds, and, with hard work and diligence, proved that they were indeed championship material, eventually posting an overall outstanding 36-10 record; and

WHEREAS, the Chargers' successful uphill battle would not have been possible without a lot of heart, according to Coach Miller; "That's what makes this team special," he says. "This team is 100 percent heart. A lot of teams would have quit yesterday or today when we were down. But this team has a will to achieve"; and

WHEREAS, Covington lost two early season games to USJ and finished second to the Bruins in the regular season District 14-AA standings; and

WHEREAS, after winning the District 14 Tourney, Covington defeated Dyersburg 3-2 in the Regional Semi-Finals; the Chargers subsequently avenged early season losses to rival USJ by conquering the Bruins in the Regional Finals 3-0; and

WHEREAS, a powerhouse in the Sectional game, Covington annihilated Hillcrest High School 24-0 to advance to the State Tournament; and

WHEREAS, Covington defeated Goodpasture High School 5-4 and then took a 5-2 loss to Pigeon Forge High School in the State Tournament; in the second game against Goodpasture, the Chargers squeaked by 7-6 to post a comeback win after trailing 5-2 through four innings and facing tournament elimination; and

WHEREAS, avenging an earlier loss in the state tourney, Covington defeated Pigeon Forge twice consecutively, 2-1 and 11-1, before tasting sweet revenge by defeating USJ for the coveted State Champion Title; and

WHEREAS, the administration of Covington High School, along with all the students and faculty, have strongly supported the outstanding Covington baseball program; and

WHEREAS, under the expert and positive leadership of Head Coach Miller and the experienced and able leadership of his staff, the Chargers have gained the reputation of being one of the most outstanding high school baseball teams in all of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, after this incredible 2006 championship season, the Chargers have insured themselves of an indelible place in their school's athletic annals; and

WHEREAS, these young men displayed ability, character, teamwork and perseverance, and with the help of their coaches, parents, fellow students and supporters, singularly placed their school and their community on the State of Tennessee Baseball Map forever; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we congratulate the 2006 Covington High School Charger Baseball Team on winning the TSSAA Class AA State Championship and offer the players and coaches our best wishes for every success and satisfaction in all their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.